

31  
**REPORT**

OF

**THE COMMITTEE**

**APPOINTED**

**ON THE SEVENTH INSTANT,**

**TO INQUIRE**

**WHETHER ANY, AND IF ANY,**

**WHAT**

**ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS ARE NECESSARY -**

**TO**

**PREVENT THE IMPORTATION OF SLAVES,**

**INTO**

***THE TERRITORIES OF THE UNITED STATES.***

---

---

**FEBRUARY 17, 1806.**

**Read, and committed to a committee of the whole House,  
to-morrow.**

---

---

**CITY OF WASHINGTON:**

**A. & G. WAY, PRINTERS.**

.....

**1806.**

---

## REPORT.



*The committee appointed to inquire whether any additional provisions are necessary to prevent the importation of slaves into the territories of the United States,*

### REPORT:

That the act of congress, passed the 7th April, 1798, authorizing the establishment of a government in the Mississippi territory, permits slavery within that territory, by excluding the last article of the ordinance of 13th July, 1787. The 7th section of this act prohibits, after the establishment of a government, the importation of slaves from any port or place *without* the limits of the United States; of course, the right to import slaves from any place *within* the limits of the United States, is not restricted.

The act of the 2d March, 1805, further providing for the government of the territory of Orleans, secures to its inhabitants, "all the rights, privileges, and advantages, secured by the ordinance of 13th July, 1787, and now enjoyed by the people of the Mississippi territory:" the importation of slaves from any place within the limits of the United States, is one of those rights, consequently the inhabitants of the territory of Orleans may exercise it also.

The 10th section of the act of 26th March, 1804, "erecting Louisiana into two territories, and providing for the temporary government thereof," prohibits the introduction of slaves into that territory from any

place, "except by a citizen of the United States removing into said territory for actual settlement, and being, at the time of such removal, bona fide owner of such slave or slaves." This 10th section being repugnant to the 1st section of the act of 2d March, 1805, was repealed by the last section of said act, which declares, "that so much of an act, entitled, an act erecting Louisiana into two territories, and providing for the temporary government thereof, as is repugnant with this act, shall, from and after the 1st Monday of November next, be repealed."

The committee are in possession of the fact, that African slaves, lately imported into Charleston, have been thence conveyed into the territory of Orleans, and, in their opinion, this practice will be continued to a very great extent, while there is no law to prevent it.

Upon this view of the subject, the committee believe it is expedient to prohibit any slave or slaves, who may be hereafter imported into the United States, from being carried into any of the territories thereof. They therefore respectfully recommend the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That it shall not be lawful for any person or persons, to import or bring into any of the territories of the United States, any slave or slaves that may hereafter be imported into the United States.